AMENDMENT

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listing, of claims in the application.

1-23. (Canceled).

24. (Currently Amended) A method for generating a unified user profile for providing transparent access to a personalization database and external user database, said method comprising the steps of:

(a) obtaining a base user java bean adapted to work through a personalization server to access said personalization database, said base user java bean adapted to provide a transparent interface through which implicit and explicit properties can be retrieved and updated from the personalization database; and

(b) creating an enterprise java bean to extend the base user java bean such that said implicit and explicit properties can further be transparently retrieved and updated from an external user database.

25. (Original) A method according to claim 24, further comprising the step of generating transparent read and write access to said external database through the extended said base user java bean.

26. (Original) A method according to claim 24, further comprising the step of configuring a server to provide said read and write access.

27. (Original) A method according to claim 26, wherein said server is a personalization server.

28. (Original) A method according to claim 24, wherein said external user database is selected from the group consisting of legacy databases, corporate databases, and customer databases.

29. (Original) A method according to claim 24, wherein said external user database contains data selected from the group consisting of authentication information, user lists, group lists, and group membership.

30. (Original) A method according to claim 24, further comprising the step of obtaining a security realm adapted to allow authentication of data in said personalization database and said external user database.

31. (Original) A method according to claim 24, wherein the extended base user java bean utilizes a property set, said property set adapted to give namespace qualifications to implicit and explicit properties of said data in said personalization database.

32. (Original) A method according to claim 31, wherein said implicit and explicit properties comprise getter and setter properties.

33. (Original) A method for transparently accessing multiple data sources, said method comprising the steps of:

(a) obtaining a base user java bean adapted to work through a server to access an internal data source, said base user java bean adapted to provide a transparent interface through which implicit and explicit properties can be retrieved and updated; and

(b) extending the user java bean such that said base user java bean is further adapted to provide a transparent interface through which implicit and explicit properties can be retrieved and updated from at least one external data source.

34. (Original) A method according to claim 33, further comprising the step of configuring a server to operate said transparent interface.

35. (Original) A method according to claim 33, further comprising the step of obtaining a security realm adapted to allow authentication of data in said internal data source and said external data source.

36. (Original) An method according to claim 33, further comprising the step of configuring a property set for the extended user java bean.

37. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim ~~35~~ 36, wherein said property set is adapted to give namespace qualifications to implicit and explicit properties of said data in said internal and external data sources.

38. (Original) A method according to claim 37, wherein said implicit and explicit properties comprise getter and setter properties.

39. (Original) A method according to claim 37, further comprising the step of using reflection to determine whether a property of said data in said internal and external data sources is explicit.

40-62. (Canceled).

63. (Currently Amended) A computer readable medium containing instructions which, when executed by a server, cause the server to perform the steps of:

(a) obtaining a base user java bean adapted to work through the server to access a first database, said base user java bean adapted to provide a transparent interface through which implicit and explicit properties can be retrieved and updated from the first database; and

(b) creating an enterprise java bean to extend the base user java bean such that said implicit and explicit properties can further be transparently retrieved and updated from a second database.

64. (Original) A computer readable medium according to claim 63, wherein the medium further causes the server to generate transparent read and write access to the second database through the extended said base user java bean.

65. (Original) A computer readable medium according to claim 63, wherein the medium further causes the server to obtain a security realm adapted to allow authentication of data in the first database and the second database.

66. (Original) A computer readable medium according to claim 63, wherein the extended base user java bean utilizes a property set, said property set adapted to give namespace qualifications to implicit and explicit properties of said data in the first database.

67. (Original) A computer readable medium according to claim 63, wherein the extended base user java bean utilizes getter and setter properties.

68. (Currently Amended) A system for use in generating a unified user profile for providing transparent access to a personalization database and external user database, comprising:

(a) a base user java bean adapted to work through a personalization server to access said personalization database, said base user java bean adapted to provide a transparent interface through which implicit and explicit properties can be retrieved and updated from the personalization database; and

(b) an enterprise java bean that extends the base user java bean such that said implicit and explicit properties can further be transparently retrieved and updated from an external user database.

69. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 68, wherein the system further comprises a means of generating transparent read and write access to said external database through the extended said base user java bean.

70. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 68, wherein the system further comprises a means of configuring a server to provide said read and write access.

71. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 68, wherein said server is a personalization server.

72. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 68, wherein said external user database is selected from the group consisting of legacy databases, corporate databases, and customer databases.

73. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 68, wherein said external user database contains data selected from the group consisting of authentication information, user lists, group lists, and group membership.

74. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 68, wherein the system further comprises a means of obtaining a security realm adapted to allow authentication of data in said personalization database and said external user database.

75. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 68, wherein the extended base user java bean utilizes a property set, said property set adapted to give namespace qualifications to implicit and explicit properties of said data in said personalization database.

76. (Previously Presented) A system for transparently accessing multiple data sources, comprising:

(a) a base user java bean adapted to work through a server to access an internal data source, said base user java bean adapted to provide a transparent interface through which implicit and explicit properties can be retrieved and updated; and

(b) a means for extending the user java bean such that said base user java bean is further adapted to provide a transparent interface through which implicit and explicit properties can be retrieved and updated from at least one external data source.